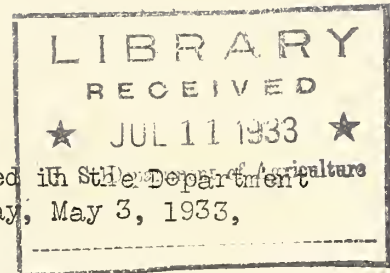


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APRIL WEATHER REVIEW



A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period; National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, May 3, 1933, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations.

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The weather of April is of considerable importance to farmers in most parts of the country. This month marks the beginning of active field work rather generally in the central and northern States, and, usually, the most important spring plantings are accomplished, or well begun, by the close of April. Cotton planting, in an average year, has become general well into the northern parts of the belt by the first of May and corn planting normally begins as far North as southeastern Pa., central Ind., and southern Iowa. Spring wheat and oats in an average year are nearly all seeded by the close of April. The month is also important with regard to fruit, as untimely frosts are often destructive to blossoms when they happen to become abnormally advanced by warm weather. After the first of May killing frost does not usually occur farther south than southeastern Pa., central Ohio, northern Ill., central Iowa, and east-central Nebraska, though in the higher Appalachian Mountains of the East the average date of occurrence is somewhat later than May 1 as far South as some western North Carolina localities. On the whole, this year, there has been less than the average amount of damage by frost. The season has been mostly from 10 days to two weeks or more late.

Generally speaking, April brought no outstanding abnormalities in temperature conditions, though considerable variations were experienced from time to time during the month. Most of the first decade was abnormally cold in the Northwest and warmer than normal over the eastern areas. The second decade had rather marked subnormal warmth in most of the South. No unusually low temperatures occurred in the central and eastern portions of the country. In the East, freezing weather was experienced well to the southern portions of the Appalachian districts, but in the interior of the country the line of freezing reached only to extreme northern Missouri. The lowest temperature reported from a first-order station was 4° above zero, at Yellowstone Park, Wyo., on the 10th.

The temperature for the month averaged remarkably near normal practically everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. The monthly means were 3° or 4° above normal in a limited area of the Northeast, but elsewhere they ran generally from 1° below normal to about 1° above. The Rocky Mountain sections had a moderately cool month, on the whole, as the temperature averaged from 2° to 4° below normal over that section. The Pacific Coast States had substantially normal conditions. Precipitation was decidedly spotted, though most places east of the Mississippi River had above normal for the month. The Northeast, the middle and upper Ohio Valley, and the central and east Gulf districts had an outstandingly wet month, while, on the other hand, parts of the south Atlantic area were decidedly dry, with some stations reporting less than half the monthly normal. The Southwest, including much of Texas, had very little rain, and an area in the north-central portion of the country, centering in southwestern Iowa, had less than normal. Much more than the usual amount was received in the west-central Great Plains, where moisture has been deficient for many months; this region received about twice the normal.

(over)

Radio- #2- 5/3/33

Conditions have been decidedly unfavorable for planting cotton, but recently seeding has shown more activity. However, generally speaking, the weather and soil continue far from favorable for rapid progress, and poor to only fair advance in seeding is the general rule; this work is unusually late in most sections. In Texas, dryness continues to retard field work over large areas, though it has been too wet in the northeastern part of the State; germination and growth of early planted cotton are slow in this State. In Oklahoma, progress has been only fair, but planting has become general. In the central portions of the belt many fields are still too wet, but better advance in seeding is now reported from most sections, while the weather in the Atlantic States, has been fairly favorable, though cool nights retarded germination; some chopping out of cotton is reported as far north as southern South Carolina.

Much of the corn belt has been persistently too wet for field work, but considerable preparation was accomplished during the past week; planting is not yet active. Some scattered fields of corn have been seeded northward to southern Indiana, the central portion of Illinois, and in Iowa as far north as Marshall County. In the Plains States planting has started as far north as southern Nebraska. In Kansas seeding is well along in the southeast, with some fields up to fair stands; Oklahoma plantings are about completed.

The seeding of spring wheat has made good progress during the last few days, being now completed, or nearly so, in most places. The early seeded is coming up to satisfactory stands. A substantial amount of belated oat seeding was accomplished during this past week and the crop, while late, shows satisfactory germination, except in the dry Southwest.

Recent rains have decidedly improved the conditions of the soil in the area from the Lake region westward, and there is now sufficient moisture for present needs in most central and northern Plains States.

Additional moisture has been decidedly helpful also in the Pacific Northwest and in the central Rocky Mountain districts. Rain is still needed in most of Texas, and some adjoining sections, while additional showers would be welcome in south Atlantic localities, especially in South Carolina.

Winter wheat is doing well in most of the Southeast and East, while in the Ohio Valley, progress and condition of the crop range from fair to excellent, although some lowlands have been too wet. In Missouri, Arkansas, and eastern Kansas development continued favorable, but in western Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas wheat remains very poor to only fair; in western Kansas many fields are still entirely bare, while others are scarcely showing green. Early seeded spring wheat and oats have germinated satisfactorily.